

Conversation with 24 year old male, Virginia (Transcription)

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Do you celebrate any holidays or Vietnamese holidays like Tet? Do you get together to celebrate the New Year?

S: Yeah, Tet. You know that?

F: Yeah, a little bit.

S: Yeah, it a big holiday.

F: What do you do on....

S: Isn't it I think...that something like New Year around here.

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F: What do you do on....

S: Yeah, we go...after the holiday come in and then I think I have a...one year again, you know. How can I say?

F: Do you celebrate that with your family? And other friends? Do they come and do you eat together? or do you do certain things?

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S: Yeah. Uh, uh, well, a little bit. Sometime get together with the family you know because my stepfather and my mother go to work in D.C. and they come..come home in six thirty and you know, I work at four..four o'clock. I just eat together on Saturday and Sunday. Yeah.

F: What do they...where do they work.

S: My mother, he..she..she a doctor in Maryland and D.C. And my stepfather, she work in Cetalon(?). He in engineering.

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F: In D.C.

S: Right.

F: What kind of doctor is your mother?

S: Uh, my mother bout occupation, you know. She going to get in <gap>(?)

F: Uh, I need to ask you about Tet...in Vietnam in Tet, did you eat certain things? Or do certain things? How do you celebrate that day? What kinds of things do you do on that day?

S: Can you tell me what does that mean do?

F: Celebrate? Uh, do you have a party?

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S: Yeah...oh, party, yeah.

F: What do you do?

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S: Well, I think uh, in my country we have the day, holiday coming, a lot of people very happy. And then, and they open the house and party toget...very happy.

F: Do they eat certain foods?

S: Yeah, they eat so much. Yeah, eat so much.

F: What kind of things? Special things?

S: A cake, big cake. And a chicken and a fish, you know, and then <gap>.

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F: Sounds good. Can you remember one of those times when you were in your country that you celebrated the New year that was fun, particularly?

S: Fun?

F: Good time.

S: Yeah. Alway we... My country it uh, alway they have a real good time, you know. Because they take the work easy.

F: What other holidays are there? Besides the New Year?

S: Uh, about..my country it's had a lot of holiday, you know. Yeah, maybe one year have a maybe twenty or for..twenty or thirty thirty holiday.

F: What ones....what different kinds are there? Of holidays?

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S: My holiday? About the famous people he dead.

F: Are there....you said you're in classes at NOVA?

S: Yes.

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F: What do you like? Are there things you like a lot about your class? Or...

S: Because if I talk someone but a little bit but someone talk to me, I can hear and I don't have to listen here. And daytime I go to library and I hear this tape...tape record...and I would like to study more, more, and more I will understand more.

F: When you finish with your class what would you like to do?

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S: Yeah, I think after finish this quarter and next quarter, I will get the Q, and I take the math, the high math and English OU(?), 01U81. You know, and more, because I would like to study and I hope I will become an engineering.

F: What kind of engineering? Do you know yet?

S: Uh, about engineering design, yeah. Because in my country I have study you know, and I just study about one year in college and after I finish one year and I come in United States.

F: Ok. Are there...are your friends here in the United States.. are your friends mostly Americans or mostly Vietnamese?

S: Yeah. I have a friend in my last...my last semester...and they live in Canada and <gap>, <Florida?>, and California. A lot of them.

F: Those are your family?

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S: No, my friend.

F: Uh huh. Are they from Vietnam?

S: Yeah. Yeah. They from Vietnam too.

F: How about your friends here in Washington? Are they mostly...the people that you are mostly friends with are they mostly Vietnamese or mostly American.

S: Yeah, I have three friend, they live in my house. Nearby my house. They study toget to me.

F: Are they Vietnamese or Americans?

S: Yes. Vietnamese.

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F: Do you know many Americans? Do you know many Americans from school?

S: American friend?

F: Yeah.

S: Yeah, I just one....I have one...one American girl.

F: Oh,

S: Just my friend.

F: Was it hard to get to know...Do you think it's hard to get to know Americans?

S: Yeah, I think so.

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F: How do you think you could get to know them..or how did you get to know your friend?
Did you do different things together?

S: Yeah, before in my class, she sits near me. And sometime here I don't understand and I talk to her explain me.

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F: Uh huh. But she's American?

S: Yeah, she's American.

F: In your math class?

S: Yes.

F: So, in school then?

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S: Yes. Because, you know, my teacher talk so fast you know and sometime I don't understand.

F: How about your neighbors where you live? Are they mostly American or mostly Vietnamese? The people that live near you.

S: Yeah. It's a near my house, a lot of American. Yeah. But uh, the neighborhood, yeah, we have five or four Vietnamese house.

F: So mostly Vietnamese or.

S: Little bit.

F: Little Vietnamese. Do you know many of the people in your neighborhood?

S: Yeah, I know them. I know them.

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F: They Americans or they Vietnamese?

S: They Vietnamese too.

F: Both?

S: Yes.

F: How did you ever get together to know them? Together to eat or...?

S: Because...because you know sometime they go to, they went to something and they went back to my house.

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F: So you talk to them?

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S: Um hm. Talk to them. And sometime they talk to me. Hello...how I...how long I been here and I talk to them that.

F: Do you ever get together to eat or shop together...?

S: No.

F: Are you in any other kinds of groups....religious groups or groups in the community. Like, uh, do you go to a church or temple?

S: A church, yeah. Because in my country, on Sunday, I go to church. Yeah. And now here. And on Sunday, six o'clock, I go to church. It the Falls Church, you know, yeah, I go to church in Falls Church.

F: In Falls Church?

S: Yeah, Falls Church.

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F: Is it a Vietnamese church or...?

S: No. It's American.

F: Are you...do you go to anything else besides Sunday service? There are times for dinner or...?

S: Yeah. Only on Sunday, six o'clock .. <gap>

F: In the morning?

S: No, six o'clock in the evening.

F: Oh, at night. What's....can you tell me a little bit about your life in Vietnam? You said you were in school. You went to college one year. And you were studying engineering?

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S: Yes. Yes.

F: Uh, can you tell me about the town or city where you lived.

S: I live in the city. Saigon.

F: In Saigon. How many people lived in that city?

S: I'm sorry. I don't know about that.

F: Yeah. Did you go to college there?

S: Yeah. Uh huh. Do you know <gap>? <gap> my teacher, he a father in church.

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F: Ok. Can you tell me about the high schools in Vietnam?

S: Yeah.

F: What are they like? How are they different from American high schools?

S: I think in Vietnam, high schools in Vietnam a higher than high school in American. Yeah. And, you know, because I ..study first year in college in Vietnam and when I come here I study in the college and I study at...I thought very easy about math, about history, and every time.. everything.

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